

Young Frankenstein (1974) by Mel Brooks Sunday, October 4, at 5 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Arcata Theatre Lounge, 1036 G St in Arcata. Box office opens 30 minutes prior to screening. Matinees before 6 p.m. are \$4 and movies starting after 6 p.m. cost \$5.

Lending his burlesque touch to 1970s genre revision, Mel Brooks followed his hit “western” *Blazing Saddles* with this parody of 1930s Universal horror movies. Determined to live down his family’s reputation, Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (co-screenwriter Gene Wilder) insists on pronouncing his name “Fronckensteen” and denies interest in replicating his grandfather’s experiments. But when he is lured by Frau Blucher (Cloris Leachman) to discover the tantalizingly titled journal “How I Did It” in his grandfather’s castle, he cannot resist. With the help of voluptuous Inga (Teri Garr), wall-eyed assistant Igor (Marty Feldman), and a purloined brain, Frankenstein creates his monster (Peter Boyle). Igor, however, stole the wrong brain, and the monster tears off into the countryside, encountering a little girl, a blind hermit (Gene Hackman) and more...

Most of the pieces of lab equipment used as props are the same ones created by Kenneth Strickfaden for the 1931 film *Frankenstein*. To further reflect the atmosphere of the earlier films, Brooks shot the picture entirely in black-and-white, a rare choice at the time, and employed 1930s-style opening credits and period scene transitions such as iris outs, wipes, and fades to black. The film also features a notable period score by Brooks’ longtime composer John Morris.

Young Frankenstein is number 28 on *Total Film Magazine’s* “List of the 50 Greatest Comedy Films of All Time”, number 56 on Bravo television network’s list of the “100 Funniest Movies”, and number 13 on the American Film Institute’s list of the 100 funniest American movies. In 2003, it was deemed “culturally, historically or aesthetically significant” by the United States National Film Preservation Board, and selected for preservation in the Library of Congress National Film Registry.

- * Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation, *Young Frankenstein* (1975)
- * Nebula Award for Best Dramatic Writing, Mel Brooks and Gene Wilder (1976)
- * Golden Scroll Award for Best Horror Film, *Young Frankenstein* (1976)
- * Golden Scroll Award for Best Direction, Mel Brooks (1976)
- * Golden Scroll Award for Best Supporting Actor, Marty Feldman (1976)
- * Golden Scroll Award for Best Make-up, William Tuttle (1976)
- * Saturn Award Golden Scroll Award for Best Set Decoration, Robert De Vestel and Dale Hennesy (1976)
- * Golden Screen Award, *Young Frankenstein* (1977)
- * Toronto Film Festival Award for Best Comedic Film, Mel Brooks (1976)